

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2006-82-T - ORDER NO. 2006-213  
MAY 4, 2006

IN RE: Application of South Carolina Tariff Bureau,     ) ORDER GRANTING  
Inc. for a 12% Rate Increase                             ) TIME FOR  
   ) INVESTIGATION

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) regarding several requests of the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) to this Commission to postpone action in the processing and numerical assignment of tariff revisions on the Application of the South Carolina Tariff Bureau, Inc. (the Tariff Bureau) for a rate increase, to update the fuel matrix and to add a column for 12,000 lbs. or more to the weight category in the line haul transportation rate schedule. Both of the requests and resulting Commission directives are addressed in this Order.

On March 17, 2006, the ORS requested postponement of the Commission's ruling in the present matter. ORS expressed that a non-compliance and/or consumer interest related issue may exist in the tariff filing, and therefore, the ORS requested an opportunity to perform an impact study regarding the Tariff Bureau's Application. The ORS asserted that the Tariff Bureau represents approximately one half of the household goods carriers in South Carolina; therefore, according to the ORS, its audit staff would need to perform a number of audits statewide to determine the impact of the Tariff Bureau's request. At the Commission's regularly scheduled meeting on March 28, 2006,

the Commission voted to grant ORS's request to the extent that the ORS was given until April 19, 2006, to perform an impact study regarding the Tariff Bureau's Application and to submit its recommendation to the Commission.

By letter filed April 10, 2006, the ORS requested additional time from April 19, 2006, to complete its impact study of the Tariff Bureau's filing. According to the ORS, the April 19, 2006, deadline will not allow the ORS sufficient time to provide the Commission with factual information.

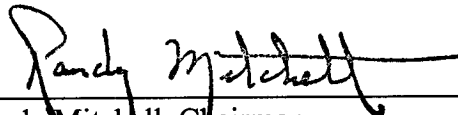
The ORS reiterated that a non-compliance and/or consumer interest related issue may exist in the tariff filing, thus the reasoning for the ORS to conduct the impact study. The ORS asserted that the Tariff Bureau's Application for a tariff and surcharge increase is tantamount to the simultaneous filing by more than sixty household goods movers and that the requested increase will impact the public throughout South Carolina. The ORS stated that it has selected a sample comprising six companies of the Tariff Bureau from which to obtain financial and operational information for its impact study and that the selected companies were given sufficient time by the ORS to compile their responses and to prepare for examination by the ORS. Lastly, ORS opined that given the number of impact studies required, the time it takes to complete these studies, and the number of auditors available to perform the studies, the ORS would be unable to reliably estimate the impact of the proposed tariff increase and submit its findings to the Commission by April 19.

We have examined this matter and agree that holding the Tariff Bureau's Application over for a brief time so that the ORS can investigate the Application is in the


public interest. Further, we determine that granting the ORS until May 14, 2006, is sufficient time for the ORS to investigate this Application, being that the Application was filed with the Commission on March 16, 2006. The ORS should complete its investigation and make a recommendation concerning disposition of this matter as soon as possible, but no later than May 14, 2006.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
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Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
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G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)